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## NOTES ON CURRENT LITERATURE—I

EDWARD B. CHAMBERLAIN

Through the kindness of Mr. Harada of New York City, several short articles upon Japanese mosses have recently been translated for me. One of these<sup>1</sup> contains observations of such interest that, as it may not be readily accessible to American readers, an abstract is given herewith.

Prof. Okamura remarks that no species of Japanese moss had been known to show such a preference for saline situations as is exhibited by *Grimmia maritima*, the lack of knowledge being perhaps due to the limited amount of distributional studies possible. Recently, however, Mr. Nanpo sent to Prof. Okamura specimens "collected within reach of the spray on the seashore near Yuzaki, Provinc of Wakayama," which appear to show such a preference. This material, of which a detailed description but unfortunately no figures, is given, is considered by Prof. Okamura to represent a new species of *Dicranella*. The description, condensed, is as follows:

***Dicranella salsuginosa*** S. Okamura. Stems 2 cm. high, erect, yellowish green, brown below; section about 0.14 mm. in diameter, with central strand. Leaves erect when dry, patent when moist, 1.7 x 0.2 mm., linear to lanceolate, acute; the upper longer and broader (4-5 x 0.6 mm.), often falcate-second and somewhat sheathing at the base. Cells linear to rectangular in the upper part, 14-50 x 14  $\mu$  in the lower leaves, 40-84 x 12-14  $\mu$  in the upper leaves, the marginal cells narrower (5  $\mu$ ), basal cells about 28-40 x 2-3  $\mu$ . Perichaetial leaves similar, but sheathing at base. Seta erect, 8-9 mm., yellowish below, red above. Operculum long-rostrate, reddish, with a deciduous annulus of three rows of cells. Capsule erect, cylindric, not strumose nor constricted at the mouth, but a little arcuate with age, 1.36 x 0.4 mm., reddish brown, shining, 5-ribbed, and with a few stomata on the conical neck. Teeth linear, split to middle, about 280  $\mu$  long, yellow and papillose above, red and vertically striate below. Male inflorescence not seen.

After studying the moss, Prof. Okamura made a series of tests to determine the extent to which the moss showed the influence of salt water. Owing to the small amount of material used, it is not possible to draw any general conclusions from the results; yet, since similar tests have not to my knowledge been made upon other mosses, it seems worth while to call attention to Prof. Okamura's work in detail, with the hope that others may be able to supplement his results.

The moss plants were first examined carefully to see if any external deposit of salt could be detected. This gave wholly negative results to microscopic examination or to the taste, but when a portion of the plant was soaked in 500 times its volume of distilled water and silver nitrate added drop by drop, a white precipitate was clearly perceived. A less quantity of water gave a more decided result. This seemed to indicate a small amount of salt on or near the surface of the plants; an amount that varied according to the part of the plant treated.

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<sup>1</sup> Shutai Okamura: On the Japanese Saline Moss. Tokyo Botanical Magazine, 1911, pp. 113-119.

A small portion of a plant was then carefully washed in distilled water, until no precipitate appeared with silver nitrate, after which the material was thoroughly dried. The dry portion was pulverized in a perfectly clean mortar and the powder extracted with about 20 times its volume of distilled water, the mixture during the extraction being boiled until about one-half the quantity of liquid remained. This liquid, when filtered, was clear, but gave with silver nitrate an abundant white precipitate, which was much more copious than that obtained in the first experiments. This was taken by Prof. Okamura to indicate the absorption of sea salt by the tissues of the moss plant.

A quantitative test, which could not be repeated owing to lack of material, was also made. A portion of the plant, weighing 150 mg. when washed and dried as before, was pulverized and extracted with boiling distilled water. The silver chloride resulting, when filtered out and dried, weighed 105 mg., from which Prof. Okamura calculates that about 28% of salt was present in the washed and dried portion of the moss.

This last result seems rather high in view of the fact that Prof. Okamura could detect no salty taste in the plant itself. But, as is suggested in the article, interesting comparisons are possible with material of *Grimmia maritima* to see whether it also shows similar evidence of any absorption of salt.

NEW YORK CITY.

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## BRINKMAN'S CANADIAN HEPATICAE

CAROLINE COVENTRY HAYNES

It is with much pleasure that I call attention to the sets of Canadian *Hepaticae* offered for sale by Mr. A. H. Brinkman. He is in a land of great plenty, so far as they are concerned, and has collected many of the rarer ones. This set, numbering 1-20, contains the following rare Lophozias: *badensis*, *Hatcheri*, *heterocolpa*, *Rutheana*, together with *Sphenolobus politus* and *scitulus*. If the sets are subscribed for, it is his intention to issue additional species. It is to be hoped that Curators of Museums and private collectors will quickly avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain such valuable material.

HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY.

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## NOTICE OF SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY MEETING

The Sullivant Moss Society will hold an all-day meeting on Saturday, May 24th, as guests of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, at Eastern Parkway, near Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. There will be presented an informal program, the time of day and the length depending on circumstances. If the weather is fine one part of the day will be devoted to a walk in the grounds and through the greenhouses, under the guidance of Dr. Gager and Mr. Norman Taylor.

The treasures of the Herbarium will be shown by Mr. E. L. Morris, and if the day prove stormy there will be ample entertainment offered by the custodians of the various exhibits. Luncheon may be had at a nearby restaurant at moderate prices.

All members of the Society and their friends will be made welcome. Meet as early in the day as convenient at the Museum Building. Those unable to be with us are asked to contribute something in the way of greeting or short note on any botanical subject of interest. Send manuscripts, letters, and inquiries to Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 78 Orange Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

April 16, 1913.

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## EDITORIAL

Before consenting to relieve our good friend, Dr. Grout, of the burdens of editorship of *THE BRYOLOGIST*, the present writer paused for long and serious thought, knowing full well the none too sufficient time at his disposal for such work. However, friends and co-workers everywhere have promised to help, and some have already been of great assistance, and your Editor feels that the work, as well as our mutual relations, will be none other than most pleasant. We hope to be able to keep *THE BRYOLOGIST* up to its present standard of excellence, and friendly criticisms and advice will always be most welcome, particularly from those to whom is due the excellent and steady development of our magazine.

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## EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Offerings—To Members Only, For Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope

Dr. R. Heber Howe, Thoreau Museum of Natural History, Concord, Mass.—*Dactylina arctica* (Hook.) Nyl. Collected in Newfoundland.

Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 78 Orange St., Brooklyn, N. Y.—*Eurhynchium stoloniferum* (Hook.) Cardot, collected near New Westminster, British Columbia, and *Theloschistes parietinus* (L.) Norm., collected on Cape Cod, Mass.

Dr. H. S. Jewett, 15 West Monument Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.—*Plagiothecium geophilum* (Aust.) Grout. Collected in Ohio.

Dr. H. E. Hasse, Box 583, Santa Monica, California.—*Alectoria oregana* Nyl.; *Arthothelium orbiliferum* (Almq.); *Arthothelium pruinascens* A. Zahlbr.; and *Anaptychia erinacea* (Ach.) Herre. All collected in California.

Mr. D. Lewis Dutton, Brandon, Vermont.—*Timmia cucullata* Michx.; *Catharinaea angustata* Brid., both *c. fr.* Collected in Vermont.

Mr. Edward B. Chamberlain, 18 West 89th St., New York City.—*Hypopterygium struthiopteris* Brid., *c. fr.* Collected in New Zealand.